

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended and/or canceled, such amendments and/or cancellations are done without prejudice and/or waiver and/or disclaimer to the claimed and/or disclosed subject matter, and the applicant and/or assignee reserves the right to claim this subject matter and/or other disclosed subject matter in a continuing application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~facsimile~~ system comprising:

an optical scanning device having a facsimile button capable of activating a facsimile function;

a computer having a communication port connected to said optical scanning device and a plurality of communication gateways connected to said computer; and

a facsimile module having a driver, a communication management program and a communication subroutine capable of supporting said communication gateways, wherein the communication management program is capable of automatically detecting the plurality of communication gateways and is further capable of determining a priority of each of the plurality of communication gateways,

wherein said facsimile module is installed in said computer and wherein said optical scanning device is capable of being automatically activated in response to a user pushing said facsimile button in order to acquire an image of a document and further wherein said communication subroutine of said facsimile module is capable of sending said image to a receiver.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said facsimile button comprises a click button.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said facsimile button comprises a touch panel.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said communication gateway comprises a MODEM.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said communication gateway comprises an Internet connection.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said communication management program is capable of determining the type of said communication gateways, and is further capable of establishing a connection from said communication subroutine to one or more of said communication gateways.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said communication management program is capable of detecting the availability of said communication gateways and is therefore capable of determining the type of said communication gateways.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~faecsimile~~ system of claim 22, wherein said communication management program is capable of detecting the availability and data transmission rate of said communication gateways and is further capable of determining a communication gateway with the highest data transmission rate.

30. (Currently amended) A ~~faecsimile~~ system ~~with a facsimile module stored in a media storage~~, comprising:

a driver capable of driving a scanner to acquire an image of a document;

an Internet communication program capable of transmitting information via the Internet;

a MODEM communication program;

an ISDN communication program; and

a communication management program capable of automatically detecting a plurality of communication gateways and determining a priority of the [[a]] plurality of communication gateways, capable of selecting a communication gateway from the plurality of detected communication gateways, capable of establishing a connection from a communication subroutine to said selected communication gateway, capable of executing said driver for acquiring said image, capable of storing said image and further capable of activating said communication subroutine to conduct a facsimile function.

31. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

automatically detecting a plurality of communication gateways;

determining a priority for each of the detected communication gateways;

receiving an indication to activate a facsimile operation, wherein the indication to activate the facsimile operation is received in response at least in part to a user pushing a facsimile button on a scanner;

performing the facsimile operation; and

delivering an image captured by the facsimile operation to a receiving device coupled to one of the detected communication gateways.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device comprises receiving the phone number from the scanner.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device comprises prompting the user and receiving an input from the user.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting a plurality of communication gateways comprises detecting a MODEM.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting a plurality of communication gateways comprises detecting an Internet connection.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising detecting transmission rates for the plurality of communication gateways.

38. (Currently Amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having stored thereon instructions, that, if executed, result in:
automatically detecting a plurality of communication gateways;
determining a priority for each of the detected communication gateways;
receiving an indication to activate a facsimile operation, wherein the indication to activate the facsimile operation is received in response at least in part to a user pushing a facsimile button on a scanner;
performing the facsimile operation; and
delivering an image captured by the facsimile operation to a receiving device coupled to one of the detected communication gateways.

39. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 38, wherein the storage medium has stored thereon further instructions, that, if executed, result in receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device.

40. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 39, wherein receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device comprises receiving the phone number from the scanner.

41. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 39, wherein receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device comprises prompting the user and receiving an input from the user.

42. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 38, wherein detecting a plurality of communication gateways comprises detecting a MODEM.

43. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 38, wherein detecting a plurality of communication gateways comprises detecting an Internet connection.

44. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 38, wherein the storage medium has stored thereon further instructions, that, if executed, result in detecting transmission rates for the plurality of communication gateways.

45. (New) A system, comprising:
means for automatically detecting a plurality of communication gateways;
means for determining a priority for each of the detected communication gateways;
means for receiving an indication to activate a facsimile operation, wherein the indication to activate the facsimile operation is received in response at least in part to a user pushing a facsimile button on a scanner;
means for performing the facsimile operation; and
means for delivering an image captured by the facsimile operation to a receiving device coupled to one of the detected communication gateways.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, further comprising means for receiving a phone number associated with the receiving device.

47. (New) The system of claim 45, further comprising means for detecting transmission rates for the plurality of communication gateways.